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## DECEMBER 3.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-four persons present.

*On Tænia mediocanellata*.—Prof. LEIDY exhibited two specimens of tapeworms, *Tænia mediocanellata*, both retaining the head. These had been recently submitted to him for examination by Dr. James J. Levick and Dr. Walter F. Atlee. Tapeworm appears not to be a common affection with us. Several physicians, in extensive practice in this city, had informed him that they never had a case. During the last ten or fifteen years, from one to two specimens annually had been submitted to him, but the present year he had seen five specimens. He had been surprised to find that all pertained to the species indicated. Formerly he supposed that our common species was the *Tænia solium*, but later experience would indicate that the *Tænia mediocanellata* is the more common. The distinction between the two had been observed only comparatively recently, so that no doubt many specimens formerly attributed to the former actually belonged to the latter.

When the head is present, the two species are readily distinguished. The *Tænia solium*, whose larval form is found in the "measle" of pork, has the head provided with a crown of hooks. *Tænia mediocanellata*, derived from beef and mutton, has a larger head, which is unarmed. The ripe segments are also usually readily distinguished in the two species. In the *T. mediocanellata*, the ovaries are divided into many more pouches than in *T. solium*.

In Dr. Levick's case, the man had been in the habit of eating raw buffalo meat. In one of the specimens exhibited, the suckers of the head appeared as black spots, from the black pigment on their interior surface. The genital apertures were also black from the same cause. In the other specimen, the head appeared less black from pigment about and around the position of the suckers, and the genital apertures do not appear black.

*Mountain Soap of California* —Prof. GEORGE A. KENIG stated that the so-called mountain soap has a uniform, impure white color, and is gritty to the touch. Examination with the lens does not reveal the composite nature of the substance, but when crushed (not ground), and stirred with water, it assumes a pasty consistency like Kaolinite, and by continued stirring with much water passes into a milky suspension. From this in a short time a sandy material deposits, while the remainder requires many hours to settle in the water into a flocculent mass. Thus two portions were obtained, a sandy one, A (45 per cent.), and a flocculent one, B (55 per cent.), roughly. Both were dried over sulphuric acid.

## Analysis of B:—

Ignition	6.70 per cent.	
Decomposed by $H_2SO_4$	28.00 per cent.	$Al_2O_3 = 12.60$
		$SiO_2 = 15.40$
		(Amorphous $SiO_2$ )
Dissolved by KHO	38.30 per cent.	$SiO_2 = 22.4$
Insoluble residue	24.35 per cent.	$Al_2O_3 = 1.50$
Not determined	2.075	
$CaOK_2O_1Na_2O_1$	100.00	

B is, therefore, a mixture of Kaolinite, opal silica, feldspathic mineral, and quartz.

## Examination of Part A:—

Ignition	12.24
$SiO_2$	69.40
$Al_2O_3$	13.50
CaO	0.60
MgO	0.30
Alkalies (difference)	4.00
	100.00

But this also parts into a soluble and an insoluble portion.

Insoluble	38.50 per cent.	$SiO_2 = 32.00$
		$Al_2O_3 = 6.40$
Soluble	61.50 per cent.	$SiO_2 = 42.2$
		$Al_2O_3 = 6.8$

It is absolutely impossible to identify any species with certainty under these circumstances.

## DECEMBER 10.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-six members present.

*Aspidium aculeatum* in *Pennsylvania*.—At the meeting of the Botanical Section of the Academy, held Dec. 9, 1878, Mr. CROZER GRIFFITH announced that while spending the past summer at Long Pond, North Mountain, Sullivan Co., Pa., he had found *Aspidium aculeatum*, Swz., var. *Braunii*, Koch, growing abundantly along the watercourse at the foot of Ganogo Falls, in a rocky, cool, and shaded locality. These falls are near the junction of the southeast corner of Sullivan and the northwest corner of Luzerne Counties, perhaps within the boundary of the latter.

So far as North America is concerned, this fern is distinctly a northern species. Canadian botanists have observed it at Gaspe and Temisconata, and from the north shore of Lake Huron to Kamouraska, eastward and northward, in restricted localities.